

EFNEP Conference – Federal Update
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Acknowledgements - Conference and work throughout the year

- Committees, Agency (funding and otherwise), NASULGC (Linda and Sandra), other agencies and individuals – time and expertise
- Members – contributing to the conference, but also the work that they do throughout the year
- CSREES – dialogue and discussion over the past year as we work to mainstream EFNEP more within the Agency... important to have that understanding and support as we transition to NIFA; Planning and accountability; Executive Council, Extramural Programs, ISTM
- Unit/Section – Strong support – Dan, Caroline, Stephanie, Sylvia, Brent, Susan, Shirley, 4-H discussions

Conference – Program development

- Started with informal new staff meeting, celebrated our history, delved deeper into a few topics – present/future directions, NASULGC to lead educational advocacy, conclude with building relationships of understanding – within states and with other agencies

Understanding the treasure that we have

My response to questions recently received. Consider how you might respond...

- Can you describe EFNEP to me?
 - EFNEP is about families and youth with limited financial resources gaining knowledge, skills, and confidence in their ability to have a more healthful diet - having the “ah ha” moment, discovering what they can do to provide for those they love – shopping skills, cooking skills, family mealtime, seeing their resources stretch a bit further, seeing the appreciation of their families, being successful at something when times are tough.
 - Directly reaches those who are taught (parents and other caregivers with primary responsibility for feeding young children), and youth; indirectly reaches that families of these individuals. EFNEP also benefits communities, as peer educators and their supervisors work collaboratively with other organizations to address issues of importance – seeking healthier communities.
- How is it possible to have done so well for so long?
 - Grounded in sound principles (wisdom of those who developed the legislation)
 - Role of the family; value of education; importance of choice, self-sufficiency and interconnectedness; research and life experience; individuals and communities; learning by doing – gaining knowledge, skills, and confidence in their ability to have a more healthful diet.
 - Reaches people where they are at, helps them find solutions as to what they can do; helps communities come together as we figure out how we can work together.
 - Passion, commitment and focus of those who deliver.
 - Addresses real and basic needs – economy, education, health.
- How has it changed over the years?
 - A strength of EFNEP is that it combines national priorities; emerging research and education methods, and technological advances, and yet is grounded in addressing the basic needs of families. Basic needs don’t really change. We may better understand and

channel our efforts, such as is consistent with the addition of physical activity to the national dietary guidelines. We may apply new learning methods and technologies. We may even adjust the content to remain relevant to the changing food shopping, preparation, and eating environment. BUT the basic focus, tapping into people's desire to provide for themselves and their families, to have a healthy and adequate diet for their families remains unchanged...

- The focus continues to be on diet quality and physical activity, food security, food resource management, and food safety....
- EFNEP is a perfect venue for addressing real needs with real people in real time for real change.

Leadership – What is our role

What are our responsibilities as we consider what we've heard this week?

- Early experience with EFNEP – regional meeting in North Dakota; plans to work on a regional project; I had no funds to put into a joint effort. All I could offer was my willingness to serve. It was enough.
- Here, too, we are each in different situations, some with partial EFNEP appointments and state teams; others with one-person leadership. Of all that you hear, need to prioritize as to what is essential, what is important (that you can contribute to), what is nice (that you can contribute as you are able), what may need to be deferred or passed to others, if at all.
- Good leadership consists of:
 - Vision (what is possible)
 - Quality (program management)
 - Integrity (true to legislative intent)
 - Accountability (numbers and percentages)
 - Embracing opportunities
 - Communicating programmatic success
 - Honoring the work at every level (our success depends on our individual AND collective efforts) internally and in cooperation/collaboration with others
 - Focus (address the very real need of improving the nutritional health and well-being of our citizens, especially those with limited financial resources, where disparities exist)

State priorities

First Priority: Program and fiscal accountability:

- Numbers and percentages – both matter
- Funding drawdown – timelines matter

Joint Federal/State efforts - Status report

FGO

- Relatively smooth process, once we got it off the ground. The agency really worked with us.... Questions had to be worked through because of Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 language.
- First two quarters funding for EFNEP 2009 have been released except where requirements have not been met (data submission, budget justification, budget narrative for 2008).
- Current plans are to release next two quarters after federal appropriations have been finalized and the actual amount due each university is known. Additionally, beginning this year, have

folded EFNEP program requirements into the FGO process. Beginning with the next FGO (i.e., the FGO Update which will be requested after the institution allocations are published), the budget sheet, budget justification narrative, and annual update will all be due as part of the FGO. Release of funds will be dependent on receipt and approval of this required information and the required annual reports.

- Ultimate goal is to have EFNEP FGO due in July for the following October (along with the other documentation, so can truly serve the planning role for which it is intended), and then to have the FGO Update (final version due once the appropriations have been finalized).

Integrated Systems Development (moving to web-based system)

- Work completed by University of Georgia
- Work nearly completed by Interagency workgroup
 - Workgroup: Karen Ballard, Karen Craig, Debra Gerrard Foster, Wanda Koszewski, Bev Phillips, Katie Rogers, Michelle Scott-Pierce, Susan Stevenson-Martin, Judy Warren, Margaret Weital
 - Reviewed in context of both EFNEP and SNAP-Ed programs; Extension Plans of Work, CNE Logic Model and NEERS5 and EARS. Reviewed for overlap, gaps, needs. Four short queries sent to states (children/youth, unintended consequences, technology, emerging themes)
 - Finalizing summary report now.
 - Using data to inform national priorities; for accountability, for program management and reporting; to tell their story more effectively.
 - Next step – back to the agency and then to contractors.
 - Note – have invited FNS to provide input for NEERS revision (recognizing challenges associated with having two systems for EARS reporting).
- Our Administrator has committed funding and this work remains an agency priority. We are well aware of the concerns about technology (VISTA and other issues). Still, will take time.
- OMB approval of current system concurrently underway.

EFNEP Policy Taskforce

- Members: Janie Burney, Missy Cody, Jamie Dollahite, Elaine Fries, Julie Gray, Lisa Jordan, April Mason, Peggy Martin, Judy Midkiff, Mary Jane Willis
 - Initial reaction to current policy document showed need for getting all on same page. Are now working on core values/elements for developing policy, and definitions.
- Notes – policy questions – some need deeper review – can take several months for a decision; others can be answered readily – FAQ.

Other Opportunities

- EFNEP/SNAP-Ed from a federal CSREES perspective (sensitive to both); drawing upon the strengths of each (seed grants – Ohio State University and University of Tennessee)
- Webinars and other trainings (regional conference calls and meetings)
- Respond to requests for input – your voice matters (REEO, etc.)
- Additional research opportunities

Federal update

- Continuing to work on relationships of understanding and cooperation: increased visibility

- Internally - mainstreaming EFNEP within the agency (exec council, planning and accountability, office of extramural programs, instructional services/technology management, youth development/4-H, community foods project)
- With others – FNS, CNPP, ERS, etc.
- EFNEP/SNAP-Ed cooperation/collaboration – able to discuss EFNEP more directly with other agencies now. Speak about both.
- Mentoring/training - Identifying regional contacts for each program to assist with state mentoring. Also through webinars, pre-conference opportunities, etc.
- Site visits – Planning a couple this year
- Funding – How do EFNEP and SNAP-Ed sit in our current fiscal situation
 - EFNEP - House and Senate funding appropriations reconciliation: NOT law yet! [2007-63.538; 2008-65.557; 2009-66.155].... [Follow-up note – passed and signed.](#)
 - Continuing resolution at the current rate... what this means to states
 - We're in a good position now, but with the economy... no guarantees. Importance of continued focus on reach, quality, and understanding.

Relationship with others in your universities/communities

- Administrators, fiscal people, other nutrition extension people; other researchers
- Beyond the individual; community, too – part of a broader solution

Conclusion – Leave you with two questions:

- **As we look to the future, consider why is the continued success of EFNEP so important?**
For me....
 - Financially, we are stewards of hard earned tax dollars from individuals and industry. Our program is built on the sacrifice of others. We must be wise in the management of those funds and in seeking the best possible outcomes for which those funds are intended.
 - Morally, we have a responsibility to our fellow human-beings, to strengthen families... how better to do it than through food – through meal-time experiences that nourish both body and soul.
 - On a personal level, for me, knowing that EFNEP is successful, means knowing that in some small way we are contributing to the happiness, well-being, and security of our citizens... being part of the solution, for the complex challenges that we face is particularly rewarding.

What makes EFNEP special?

- For me, it's the people... people reaching out to people, it's the “ah ha” moments, it's knowing that a little knowledge and skill in a new area, can open doors of opportunity... for program participants, for peer educators who share and who develop personally, as well, and for supervisors, state leaders, and others, who are blessed by our opportunity to reach out, to help, and to learn from those whom we seek to serve.
- I count you as one of the greatest benefits of the work that I do
 - Whether new, intermediate, or long-term – you have a place and much to contribute to EFNEP.
 - You are doing good in tough times.
 - You provide constancy amidst so much that is unknown